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of the year, flow under the ground for the last two miles, so that it is easily possible to get across near the coast, but in the rainy season they flow in the surface bed and are quite impassable.

The prevailing wind is the moisture-laden northeast trade. On this account the rainfall is abundant on the windward side of the Maestra while the leeward side of the range is dry and arid. The increasing altitude of the mountains from east to west and the decrease in the width of the strip of land lying between them and the sea makes the effect of this great wind-shield still more marked as one travels westward. Here at least two species of *Cereus*, and an *Agave*, together with many other more or less xerophytic plants, were found.

Among the interesting plants collected were specimens of *Pinus occidentalis*. This pine occurred on the mountains at elevations between 1,000 and 2,300 feet, and was plentiful in many places. The great size and inaccessibility of the trees of *Ceiba pentandra* that were found in the mountains were cited as facts that must have some bearing on the probable New World origin of the species.

Discussion followed by Dr. Britton and Dr. Howe, the former giving recent evidence collected by him in Jamaica, pointing toward the conclusion that the *Ceiba* may very probably be considered as a native of the New World.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Science for November 16 announces the appointment of Dr. Albert Mann, formerly professor of botany in the Ohio Wesleyan University and expert in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as professor of botany in the George Washington University.

The herbarium of William Mitten, the distinguished bryologist, who died at Hurstpierpont, England, last July, has been purchased by the New York Botanical Garden. Mr. R. S. Williams, of the Garden staff, sailed for England on October 6 to superin-

tend the packing and shipment of this important collection, returning to New York November 29. The Mitten herbarium is rich in Hepaticae as well as in Musci.

Mayor McClellan has appointed Dr. Arthur Hollick, of the New York Botanical Garden staff, a member of the Board of Education of Greater New York to succeed Mr. Samuel M. Dix, of the Borough of Richmond.

A recent number of *Science* states that Dr. E. B. Copeland, who for the past three years has been engaged in botanical and educational work in the Philippine Islands, has been elected horticulturist of the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and was expected to begin his new duties about the middle of November.

The Torrey Botanical Club will give a reception to the visiting botanists of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, on the evening of Wednesday, December 26. The regular meeting of the Club, announced in the November *TORREYA* for the afternoon of that day, will be omitted.

Mr. T. S. Brandege, recently of San Diego, California, the donation of whose herbarium to the University of California was announced in the October *TORREYA*, has been appointed honorary curator of the herbarium of that institution. The Brandege herbarium is said to consist of over 100,000 sheets of plants, mostly representative of the Mexican flora, and to include an especially strong collection of the North American Boraginaceae.

Dr. Roland M. Harper is now engaged at the American Museum of Natural History in some special work in connection with the Jesup collection of woods. His doctorate thesis, "A Phyto-geographical Sketch of the Altamaha Grit Region of the Coastal Plain of Georgia," which forms Part 1 of Vol. 17 of the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* and comprises 414 pages, with 28 half-tone plates and a map, was issued in November.